

From: Paul Ashford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/4/01 9:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dir Sir or Madam,

While the proposed settlement does do a lot to try and make a level playing field within the computer industry, I do not believe it goes far enough. Microsoft has shown us in the past, that it is a company that cannot be trusted. In the eyes of many people, Microsoft has done no wrong. The reason people believe this, is that they don't really have any direct involvement with the company, outside of the fact that they probably use there operating system and other products.

People don't realize that they could have a better computer "experience" if other companies could have competed with Microsoft. Case in point, being the BeOS, made by Be, Inc. This company is now going out of business. They had a truly great operating system, that was small, but powerful, and could do almost anything the Microsoft OSs could do. Some may say it was poor marketing on Be's behalf, that caused them failure.

But, due to contracts Microsoft held with OEMs, they could not get their OS installed on manufacturer's machines. Making Microsoft open up the contracts a little to allow multiple OSs on a newly distributed machine, does not help out companies have been hurt in the past.

Especially now, that the only OS really around that can be used on an Intel machine, is Linux, and most people would not want to use that. Forcing of the API and related documents to be published by Microsoft will not help in any way. The current docuementation that they release is dreadful, and I cannot expect that it would get any better.

Forcing Microsoft the remove icons and and menu entries to their products does not mean those products are uninstalled. Microsoft has tied the Internet Explorer browser so tightly into their operating systems, that uninstalling them would mean a lot of work, but this would not be impossible. They may say that it is, but I tell you it is not.

Nothing is impossible.

This should be a punishment, not a slap on the wrist. Microsoft has hurt a lot of people and businesses. Yes, they have helped in making computers more common place, but they did this while fattening their own pockets, and not allowing others to join in the rewards.

So, as you can see, I am against this settlement, and hope that it will be rejected. Microsoft should not be allowed to get "off" as easily as you are proposing.

Thank you,

Paul Ashford

